



It Was an Excellent Year!

Frederick Bode, Graduate Program Director

The current academic year has been a very successful one for graduate studies in History at Concordia. Twenty-three new students entered the program at all levels in September, along with a smaller contingent in January. Among many fine incoming students last September, we welcomed our first Dagobert Broh Doctoral Entrance Fellow, Lindsay Pattison. At Fall convocation in 2003 both Keith Meadowcroft and Serge Granger were awarded the Ph.D., while Jessica Vandervort received her M.A. degree. Keith continues his association with the department as a part time instructor in South Asian history. At Spring convocation Michael Bornstein, Matthew Friedman, Manon Lamontagne and James Van den Berg will in their turn enter the ranks of *magister artis*. Evan May successfully completed his Ph.D. comprehensive examinations. Both he and Matthew Barlow presented their research colloquia to the Department and have been admitted to candidacy for the degree. Evan is investigating conflict in the setting of late medieval and early modern London, and Matt is doing a cultural analysis of the Irish community in Montreal's Griffintown. A current M.A. student, Shera Morgan, has received the Dagobert Broh Research Stipend to complete archival work for her project on Russian influences on American

documentary film. Among students entering the program in the Fall of 2004, Simon Jolivet will receive the Dagobert Broh Doctoral Entrance Fellowship. After having completed his M.A. at UQAM, he will pursue research here on relations between Ireland and Quebec in the early part of the twentieth century. He is, moreover, a recipient of a Faculty of Arts and Sciences Entrance Fellowship. Also receiving an Arts and Science Entrance Fellowship is incoming M.A. student Mark Rieger, who plans to examine expressions of post-Second World War English Canadian nationalism. Two of our current undergraduate students, Geneviève Vallerand and Stephen Russo, have received SSHRC M.A. fellowships. Geneviève will be pursuing her graduate work at York University, while Stephen is off to the University of Victoria. I am also pleased to report that Brad Kent, a student in the Ph.D. in Humanities program who is doing research in Irish Studies, received a SSHRC doctoral fellowship. Brad has at least one foot in the Department since he has worked as a marker/mentor and has Professor Rudin as one of his supervisors.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all the students in the program for making this a year in which we can all take pride. ■

Broh Winners for 2004-5

The History Department is once again pleased to announce the winners of the Dagobert Broh Doctoral Entrance Fellowship and the Broh Research Stipend.

Simon Jolivet is the winner of the \$12,000 Broh Doctoral Entrance Fellowship for 2004-5. Simon is currently completing his M.A. thesis, entitled "Lloyd George et la question d'Irlande, 1916-1922," at UQAM. In September, under the supervision of Ronald Rudin, he will embark on a study of the relationship of Canadian authorities and francophone and anglophone Québécois with the Irish at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Shera Morgan, one of our current M.A. students, is the winner of the 2004-5 Broh Research Stipend. Shera completed her B.A. at Bryn Mawr College and entered the M.A. program in 2003. Her thesis, which she is completing under the supervision of Graham Carr, will be entitled "From Eisenstein to Deren: The Russian Influence on American Experimental Film." Shera will use the \$3000 stipend for a trip to use various archives in New York City.

We offer both Simon and Shera our heartiest congratulations!

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Matthew Hayday

Dr. Matthew Hayday joins the Department for the 2003-4 and 2004-5 academic years as a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, working with Ronald Rudin. Dr. Hayday earned his B.A. at the University of Toronto, and his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Ottawa where he studied modern Canadian, Quebec and American history. His dissertation, entitled "Bilingual Today, United Tomorrow: Canadian Federalism and the Development of the Official Languages in Education Program, 1968-1984," examined the efforts of the Trudeau government to develop official languages policies in the realm of education. During the 2003-4 academic year, he taught a course in introductory American history. Matthew introduces himself below:

One of my earliest memories of Canadian history and politics is of watching the returns of the 1984 election in the basement with my father when I was seven years old. I didn't fully understand what was going on at the time, but I knew that my dad was not pleased that Mulroney had won. About four years later, he introduced me to political satire via the CBC's Royal Canadian Air Farce, which we listened to in the car on Saturday mornings, and then later we attended the annual live taping at Massey Hall. From that point on, I was hooked on Canadian politics and current events.

My decision to study Canadian history was a way to combine my two major academic interests – language and politics – while keeping my options open for teaching. As an undergraduate, I wanted to be a high school teacher, and political science was not considered a teachable subject for most faculties of education. History was a way for me to continue studying politics, but from a different vantage point. It also dovetailed nicely with my other major, French literature, because it provided the context in which the works I was studying were written. However, a few years of watching the impact of Mike Harris's "Common Sense Revolution" quickly convinced me that I no longer wanted to work in an Ontario high school. I decided to see where graduate school could lead me.

My graduate work allowed me to combine my interests in French and History. From the starting point of an interest in English-French relations in Canadian history, I developed my dissertation around the Trudeau government's efforts to promote official languages in education, an initiative which led to the rapid development of minority language education, second language instruction and French immersion programs. My main focus was on the intergovernmental relations involved in these programs, which entailed extensive jurisdictional battles between Ottawa and the provinces, coinciding with the debates over Quebec sovereignty and language policies of the 1970s and early 1980s. I also looked at how lobby groups, particularly those representing Canada's English- and French-speaking minorities, tried to get their objectives addressed by their governments. I have published a couple of articles in connection with

this work, which appeared in the *Journal of Canadian Studies* and the *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association*, and I am currently revising my thesis for publication as a book.

While my doctoral dissertation focussed on the emergence of bilingualism as an aspect of Canadian identity, I am taking a broader focus with my postdoctoral research. Using Dominion Day and Canada Day celebrations as case studies, I am examining how traditional British-Canadian conceptions of Canadian identity were challenged in the post-World War II era, and how this identity evolved in response to multiculturalism, bilingualism, regionalism and Québécois nationalism. This last aspect is of particular interest to me, and I intend to draw linkages with the increasingly nationalist St-Jean-Baptiste Day celebrations in Montreal, which were competing for the role of "national holiday" in Quebec. Through this research, I hope to be able to add to our understanding of how conceptions of Canadian identity have changed over time, and how celebratory activities have shaped this understanding.

Moving to Montreal has been quite the adventure for me, and an opportunity to live in a more truly bilingual environment. I have greatly enjoyed living in a major urban centre again, with all the amenities it affords. My partner and I are enthusiastic amateur cooks, with a particular interest in Thai, Moroccan and Indian cooking, and we have enjoyed finding our more exotic ingredients not only readily available, but in our neighbourhood stores. The diversity of film, comedy and theatre festivals has also been a real treat, as I used to be on the board of a community film festival in Ottawa. The History Department at Concordia has proven to be a very warm and welcoming place, and is making my time here most enjoyable. ■

Audrée-Isabelle Tardif

Dr. Audrée-Isabelle Tardif joined our Department in 2002 as an FQRSC Postdoctoral Fellow. Audrée-Isabelle did her B.A. and M.A. at the Université de Montréal. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of Cambridge (U.K.) with a thesis entitled "A Cultural History of Social Dance among the Upper Ranks in Eighteenth-Century England." She is currently working with Robert Tittler on her topic "Le Divertissement en Angleterre et en France au XVIII^e siècle." During the past year, Audrée-Isabelle taught a course in post-1688 English history. She introduces herself below:

L'histoire s'est imposée à moi malgré mes efforts pour y résister. Ayant d'abord choisi le théâtre, j'ai bifurqué vers un baccalauréat en histoire en percevant que je ne voulais pas seulement être le canal des idées des autres. J'ai poursuivi jusqu'à la maîtrise à l'Université de Montréal, mais je n'ai pu m'empêcher d'opter pour une étude se rapportant à l'imaginaire, celui des Français et de leurs mythes originels gaulois au XVI^e siècle. Ce mémoire m'a non seulement permis de rire davantage en lisant les bandes dessinées *Astérix* de Goscinny et Uderzo (!), mais il a également nourri ma curiosité sur les questions d'identité et de mémoire collective. Ces intérêts s'étaient déjà manifestés lors d'une année passée en France, à l'université Paul-Valéry de Montpellier, où j'ai pu explorer, tantôt agacée, tantôt réconfortée, les côtés outre-Atlantique de ma québécoïté.

Venu le temps de me lancer dans l'aventure doctorale, j'ai renoué avec ma résistance pour l'histoire pour finalement joindre tous mes intérêts et questionnements possibles dans un seul projet. Ce sont les travaux de Peter Burke et de Lawrence Klein qui m'ont inspirée à concocter un projet à la fois d'histoire culturelle et intellectuelle. Ma réflexion sur mon identité personnelle m'a menée en Grande-Bretagne (cette autre partie de l'identité québécoise, du moins telle que je la ressens), mon envie d'explorer le monde des arts et des cultures m'a tournée vers la danse sociale et la multidisciplinarité, et mon besoin de méthodologie m'a gardée dans le giron de l'histoire. Je suis donc allée à Cambridge afin de compléter un doctorat sur la danse sociale « polie » en Angleterre pendant le long XVIII^e siècle. Ma thèse explore plusieurs thèmes nouveaux notamment : le rôle actif des maîtres de danse dans la promotion et le développement de la danse sociale en Angleterre; les paradoxes engendrés par la contradiction entre le rang social moyen des maîtres de danse et leur enseignement qui touchait l'essence même de la noblesse;

l'association problématique de la danse avec la France à une période où les deux royaumes étaient rivaux; les diverses fonctions du langage du corps dans la sociabilité; les moments particuliers où le langage corporel de la danse avait un poids concret dans la vie de l'élite, par exemple l'entrée dans la vie adulte; la notion peu explorée de plaisir dans la danse; et l'incarnation d'un idéal féminin et masculin à travers le langage et la gestuelle de la danse et les relations genrées dans la danse.

Quatre ans plus tard, j'ai eu envie de faire la somme des identités diverses acquises au fil de mes exils, et de revenir au berceau. Je suis donc arrivée à l'université Concordia où, outre l'enseignement, j'applique maintenant ma réflexion sur l'identité dans mes recherches sur la danse sociale et les échanges culturels entre la France et l'Angleterre en matière de divertissements afin de comprendre les différences nationales dans la culture cosmopolite de l'Europe du XVIII^e siècle. ■

The History Department will be welcoming another SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow in September 2004. **Ryan Edwardson**, who has recently completed a Ph.D. dissertation at Queen's University entitled "Canadianization: Canadian Content, Cultural Intervention, and Constructing a National Culture," is planning to work with Mary Vipond on a project called "Canuck Rock: The Quest for a Canadian Popular Music." We hope to introduce Ryan more fully in a future issue of this newsletter.

The 2003-4 Broh Winners

Dr. Dagobert Broh received his Ph.D. from our Department in 1996 at the age of ninety-one. When Dr. Broh died in 1999 he left a sizeable bequest to Concordia which enabled the Department to create an annual doctoral entrance fellowship and an annual research stipend.

Lindsay Pattison, 2003-4 Doctoral Entrance Fellowship Recipient

Looking back, I can say that 2003 was a good year for me. It was definitely a year of exciting changes. The most monumental of these was the decision to go back to school. In the spring of that year, I discovered that my application had been accepted and I would soon be moving to Montreal to pursue doctoral studies in History at Concordia University. Making this news even better, and the transition from work to school more smooth, was the offer of funding for my first year.

I am pleased and fortunate to have been awarded the Dagobert Broh Doctoral Entrance Fellowship. "The Broh," as it is affectionately called by members of the Department, was made possible by a generous endowment to the University by a former student. Dagobert Broh is thought to be the most aged person to have obtained a Ph.D. in History at Concordia or any other Canadian university. He opted to spend his retirement learning and studying, completing his degree at the age of ninety-one. The History Department was surprised to learn that upon his death, having never married and without any surviving family, Dagobert had bequeathed the bulk of his wealth to the University. Apparently, he was quite a character, with a long and fascinating history of his own. I am sorry that I never got to meet him.

The Broh is to be awarded annually to an incoming doctoral student in the Department of History. 2003 was its inaugural year, and I am happy to be its first recipient. This generous funding has allowed me to enjoy my first year of study at Concordia without financial worries. Moving to a strange city, finding a place to live, and starting at a new school can be stressful enough without the prospect of having to look for work. Thanks to the Broh I have been able to devote my time to appreciating the experience of being in school once again.

This summer I will be busy with a couple of academic endeavours. I plan to prepare part of my Master's research on youth and sexuality in Canada from 1943 to 1947 for publication and I will be presenting a paper at the upcoming Canadian History of Education Association conference at the University of Calgary. These projects might not have come into being without the Broh. By the autumn of 2004, I will have completed my year of course work and will be beginning to prepare for my comprehensive exams. Unfortunately, the Broh can't come with me. It will be awarded to a new incoming Ph.D. student. I have accepted a position in the Department as a teaching assistant and another as a research assistant. While I will sorely miss the freedom that the Broh fellowship afforded, I am looking forward to working for my money next year ... sort of. ■

Christian DesRoches, 2003-4 Broh Research Stipend Recipient

On the evening of my thirtieth birthday, I was on a charter flight from Montreal to Paris, on my way to visit archives and research institutes in France and Belgium. I had only been back home for three weeks after spending the summer in Washington, D.C., sifting through the archives of the Nixon Administration and interviewing former policymakers. By then, my research had allowed me to examine firsthand the U.S. response to the 1972 genocide in the

central African country of Burundi. I would now have the opportunity to examine the crisis from the perspective of Belgium, Burundi's erstwhile colonial ruler, and France.

Ah, Paris! *La Cité des Lumières*, with its museums, parks and cafés. I was almost heartbroken to have to forsake all these earthly pleasures in order to spend my days in the stuffy reading room of the Archives du

Broh Winners cont'd.

Ministère des Affaires Étrangères at the Quai d'Orsay. My initial disappointment was rapidly quelled, however, when I discovered the richness of the available material. Since France's role in the 1972 Burundi genocide had been dubious at best, I had not expected to be given much access. Instead, I was allowed to see a treasure trove of relevant documents thanks to the help of Mrs. Karole Bezut, the friendly archivist in charge of the African materials.

Working at the Quai d'Orsay can often be a challenge – the reading room staff is notorious for its contempt towards researchers – but the two weeks spent there yielded fruitful results.

My next stop was Antwerp, the cultural and symbolic heart of Belgian Flanders, where I visited the Center for the Study of the Great Lakes Region of Africa, an institute directed by Professor Filip Reyntjens. Aside from the prodigious amount of material assembled by the Centre in the past four decades, I was impressed by the knowledge and dedication of its scholars. The very day I arrived, the research room was abuzz with the news that one of the Centre's fellows had just clandestinely made his way into Rwanda, a country from which most of the Centre's human rights observers have been banned. It is such courageous fieldwork that allowed the Centre to assemble such a vast array of materials.

After a week in Antwerp and a weekend trip to beautiful Ghent and Bruges, I headed to Brussels to visit the archives of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, located a stone's throw away from the Royal Palace. The staff displayed the utmost courtesy and interest in my work, perhaps because I was the only researcher on the premises aside from a couple of *lycéens* working on a research paper! Unfortunately, the archivists could only provide me with a limited amount of material. The controversy about Belgium's role in the Congo in the early 1960s, recently rekindled by a biography and a movie examining the tragic fate of Congolese independence leader Patrice

Lumumba, has made the Belgian Diplomatic Commission nervous, and some of the African materials have been sealed for an extra twenty-five years.

Belgium's colonial legacy remains a touchy subject. One must travel there to perceive the extent to which the country's notorious language issue is an integral, even insidious, part of the debate about Belgium's colonial past. Indeed, it is widely acknowledged that the defenders of Belgian colonialism have overwhelmingly been French-speaking Walloons whereas the critics of Belgium's role in Africa have mostly been Flemish. Traveling to Belgium allowed me to gain this crucial insight. Moreover, I was thankful to discover a country that made Canada's language issues seem like a relatively simple matter!

This hurdle aside, my work at the diplomatic archives did yield worthwhile results, as did my frequent trips to the *Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique*, fondly called *l'Albertine* by the locals. I was also afforded the pleasure of spending a few days in the sleepy suburb of Tervuren, a thirty-minute train ride from downtown Brussels, to visit the *Institut Africain*, a quiet research centre located on the grounds of the *Musée Royal de l'Afrique centrale*. This majestic museum, built in 1908 by the infamous King Leopold II to celebrate his *mission civilisatrice* in the Congo, is, aside from a few perfunctory disclaimers, still a vibrant monument celebrating Belgium's colonial legacy.

This five-week trip to Europe allowed me to gain a wider perspective for my doctoral research. One of the most important trends in the study of American foreign policy these past few years has been the internationalization of archival research. The Dagobert Broh Research Stipend has given me the opportunity to meet the highest standards of my academic field. ■

Where Are They Now?

Zal Karkaria graduated with his B.A. in History and Journalism in 1999 and his M.A. in History in 2003. He completed his thesis, entitled "Failure Through Neglect: The Women's Policies of the Khmer Rouge," under the direction of Frank Chalk. Zal is currently living and working in Ottawa, where he is training with the Canadian Foreign Service, and hopes in the near future to be posted to an embassy where he will serve as a Visa Officer.

Upon entering the M.A. program at Concordia, one of my goals was to experience first-hand the area that was to be the subject of my research, and my thesis turned out to be a product of an internship I undertook in Cambodia in the summer of 2002. There, I interned at the Documentation Centre of Cambodia (DC-Cam), an organization staffed entirely by Cambodians that conducts essential research into the Khmer Rouge (KR) period of Cambodian history. Through DC-Cam, I conducted interviews in rural Cambodia with former female cadres of the Khmer Rouge. These were to form the foundation for my thesis, titled "Failure Through Neglect: The Women's Policies of the Khmer Rouge."

The women's stories were, for the most part, tragically similar: as teenagers, they were coerced into joining the revolutionary Khmer Rouge movement during the Civil War period (1970-75) and were sent to the battlefield with minimal training or indoctrination; each one attempted to escape and return to their families, only to be recaptured and forced into labour camps for most of the Khmer Rouge's brief time in power, from 1975-79. From these stories as well as written sources, I concluded that the Khmer Rouge neglected almost entirely to formulate a women's policy that would attract women to its cause and offer them real benefits in a Khmer Rouge-ruled Cambodia. In my thesis, I also contrasted the KR women's agenda with

those of revolutionary movements in China, Vietnam and North Korea, which had well-organized women's movements that made important contributions to their respective causes.

Happily, my paper has been well received. Youk Chhang, the director of DC-Cam (and a recent visitor to Concordia) has published most of it in the Centre's magazine, *Searching for the Truth*, and sent it to a local Khmer-language newspaper where it was presented in serialized form. It may also be turned into a book as part of DC-Cam's publication series. And, importantly, it passed the rigorous examination of Professors Ingram, Hill and Chalk, who provided valuable criticism and guidance as part of my examination committee.

Completing my M.A. in History at Concordia was an extremely rewarding experience as it permitted me to develop intellectually, and to acquire the tools and experience necessary to embark on a career as a Visa Officer with the Canadian Foreign Service. International experience was an essential prerequisite for the position, and my research trip filled this gap on my resumé. Soon, I will be posted to a Canadian embassy abroad, but whichever (hopefully warm) country I find myself in, I will always look back to my time at Concordia with fondness, for it truly marks a period of personal growth that helped launch my career. ■

Theses and Original Essays

Ph.D. Theses

Serge Granger, *Québec and China during the First Half of the Twentieth Century*, Fall 2003.
(Supervisor: Martin Singer)

China has attracted foreign merchants, intellectuals, diplomats, soldiers, and missionaries. Québec experience in China during the first half of the twentieth century involved a range of people who witnessed the substantial social and political transformation of China. Their comments on China provided Québec with a window on the world and enriched awareness of China in Québec. Québec's China experience challenges the view that Québec was isolated before the so-called Quiet Revolution.

Missionaries were the predominant Québec group that had contact with China in the first half of the twentieth century. Their experience in China was particularly interesting because it impacted on a great majority of Québec students, who were offered an image of China as a nation in need of rejuvenation. Christianity was to provide the morality needed to overcome China's national despair. Chinese governments were traditionally secular and subordinated religion to state power. By encompassing three different stages of Chinese history (imperial, republican and communist), the thesis provides an overview of Québec's experience in China despite significant changes in the Chinese political framework. It also provides a better understanding on how China dealt with

Theses Cont'd.

foreigners. The Chinese attempt to adopt a modern form of government represents the application of a new state structure to a very large number of people, perhaps the greatest ever.

The study is divided into four parts detailing the stages of Québec involvement in China. The first part examines early encounters between Québec and China and how the republican revolution of 1912 encouraged the arrival of Québec missionaries in China. The second part focuses on the republican period (1912-1937) characterized by warlords and political instability in China. Québec missionaries distrusted the Guomindang and did not see the unification of China under the new political party as feasible. Québec missionaries believed that China's republicans were spiritually impaired and incapable of dealing with democratic reforms. The third part details Québec's involvement in wartime China (1937-1949). Québec comments reveal an interesting evaluation of the Chinese government under Japanese control. The final part argues that the communist takeover of China forced Québec to disengage from China for political and religious reasons. Zhou Enlai's (1905-1976) support for the religious Three-Self movement fostered the nationalization of religion with the creation of the Chinese Patriotic Church (1957), seen as schismatic by Québec missionaries. As for impact, Québec Catholic missionaries pressured the Canadian government not to recognize China during the Cold War.

Sources consist mainly of Québec missionary periodicals and archives, which are quite voluminous. Secular sources (government, academic, and journalistic) have also been consulted to reconstruct Québec's secular vision of China. Other sources reflect the multi-faceted nature of Québec experience in China and a deep admiration for the Chinese world and its ability to assimilate foreign influence and revive.

Keith Meadowcroft, *The Emergence, Crystallization and Shattering of a Right-wing Alternative to Congress Nationalism – the All-India Hindu Mahasabha, 1937-52*, Fall 2003.
(Supervisor: John Hill)

This study traces the rise and fall of the first, all-India, Hindu nationalist or supremacist political party, the Hindu Mahasabha. It seeks to situate the Hindu Mahasabha in the political and social landscape of India by documenting the Mahasabha's actions and interaction with the British colonial regime, the Indian National Congress and other political forces. By so doing, it seeks to draw out what social and political groups gravitated toward Hindu nationalism and

toward what end. A key conclusion is that the Hindu Mahasabha's late 1930's transformation from an organization ostensibly dedicated to Hindu unity and uplift into a political party advocating Hindu Raj was not simply a product of increasing communal-political polarization. The Mahasabha's transformation was also bound up with fears among India's propertied classes as to the emergence of socialist currents in and around the Congress and growing worker and peasant struggles.

This study documents the close collaboration between the Hindu Mahasabha and the British colonial regime during World War II and the Mahasabha's subsequent involvement in the attempts of the landlords, princes and other elite layers to oppose India's emerging bourgeois-democratic political order. It shows that in 1947-48 and again in 1950, the Hindu Mahasabha emerged, in the name of *Hindu Raj* and *Akhand Hindusthan*, as the ideologue of ethnic-cleansing.

Much of this dissertation is devoted to untangling the complex relationship between the Mahasabha and the Indian National Congress. It argues against facile approaches which either deny any antagonism between the two parties or maintain that the Congress was a secular organization that resolutely and consistently resisted Hindu nationalist pressure. ■

M.A. Theses

Jessica L. Brettler Vandervort, *Faith, Family, Female Education and Friendship: Retelling Louise Amelia Monk's Adolescence in Bourgeois Montreal, 1867-1871*, Fall 2003. (Supervisor: Mary Vipond)

Historians are increasingly using diaries in their research to uncover the largely hidden lives of nineteenth-century women. Diaries provide evidence about the internal lives of individual women and allow scholars to speculate on how women actually experienced Victorian cultural expectations and restraints. In her journals, Louise Amelia Monk (1850-1874), the only daughter of the six children born to Judge Samuel Cornwallis Monk and Caroline Debartzch, describes coming of age in bourgeois Montreal. Louise's particular experience of adolescence was shaped by her class, race, gender, religion, and her unique personality and family circumstances. Louise's introspective diary entries, composed between 1867 and 1871, are dominated by faith, family, female education, and friendship and chart her journey

Theses Cont'd.

of self-awareness. Her writing shows a young religious, Catholic, bilingual Anglophone woman growing up within a loving and intellectually stimulating family which accepted her female destiny (marriage and motherhood) with little ambivalence. Louise employs her diary as a silent confidant, voicing concern about her future, and as a place to express her spirituality. Louise died at 23 years of age, leaving behind a bereaved family and a compelling historical and literary document.

Matthew Friedman, *Transatlantic: A Genealogy of Modern American Musical Theatre from Jonny Spielt Auf to West Side Story*, Spring 2004.
(Supervisor: Graham Carr)

The motion picture adaptation of *West Side Story* in 1961 was a singular moment for American musical theatre. Its release normalized a unique trajectory of modernism that had first emerged in Germany after the First World War. At that time, German composers had initiated a radical modernist renovation of the opera. The result was a new definition of opera that subverted traditional categories and sought to express the condition of modernity.

The generation of young American composers who had studied in Europe during the 1920s was deeply influenced by the German project, and they adapted its aims and aesthetic program to construct an American modern operatic tradition. This aesthetic project emerged in the United States in 1937, when Marc Blitzstein's musical play *The Cradle Will Rock* was first performed on

Broadway. This show was a conscious effort to articulate the program of the new German opera in an American context.

Blitzstein had a strong personal and creative influence on Leonard Bernstein, who consciously emulated his mentor and whose compositions for the musical stage in the 1940s and 1950s employed the aesthetic vocabulary of the German and American operatic projects. *West Side Story* clearly articulated that aesthetic. The genealogy of this process is revealed in the personal papers, articles and lectures of the German and American composers. ■

M.A. Research Essays

Michael Bornstein, *Fork in the Road to the Killing Fields: U.S. Intervention, Communist Doctrines, and Genocide in Cambodia and Laos, 1969-1979*, Spring 2004. (Supervisor: Frank Chalk).

Manon Lamontagne, 'A Miasma of Misunderstanding': The National Film Board, the Department of External Affairs and the Cold War, 1946-1953, Spring 2004.
(Supervisor: Mary Vipond).

James Van den Berg, *Re-reading Intervention: U.S. Historians, the Guatemalan Army and the Interpretation of (CI) Agency, 1944-70*, Spring 2004. (Supervisor: Frank Chalk). ■

Department Awards

We are pleased to announce the 2003-4 Department Prize winners. Each student will receive the book of their choice to mark their achievement:

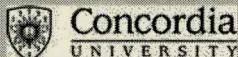
The William Henry Atherton Prize (best undergraduate essay in Canadian History)
Mark Rieger

The David Fox Memorial Prize (best undergraduate honours essay in History)
Geneviève Vallerand

The O'Connor/O'Hearn Prize (academic excellence and contributions to university life)
Geneviève Vallerand

The Irish Protestant Benevolent Society Award (best essay, graduate or undergraduate, on an Irish theme)
Kathryn Edwards

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!



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